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ILLINOIS

Carl Willard Smith

(1946)

ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY



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ILLINOIS

THE "PRAIRIE STATE"

By CARL WILLARD SMITH

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ILLINOIS— THE "PRAIRIE STATE"

Illinois is the state whose inhabitants speak, not English, but, according to an act of their legislature, the "American language." Illinois is the "Prairie State" which ranks fourth among all the states in total farm income, but lists more than 73 per cent of its population as urban; which is fifth among the states in its percentage of farmers, but has three times as many industrial as agricultural workers.

This is the state whose vast prairies and extensive woodlands reach to the very doorstep of a great metropolis of the world—Chicago, the world's largest grain and lumber market, Carl Sandburg's midwest Titan, "half-naked, sweating, proud to be Hog Butcher, Tool Maker, Stacker of Wheat, Player with Railroads, and Freight Handler to the Nation."

Illinois is the home of the Haymarket Riots and of Hull House; of Al Capone and Abraham Lincoln; the state which calls its own both Sam Insull and Robert Ingersoll, "Big Bill" Thompson and Peter Altgeld.

Though Illinois has a flavor all its own, it is difficult to find anything typical about this paradoxical state. It needs description more than generalization.

EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

Before French explorers first set foot in what is now Illinois, in 1763, the region was inhabited by the Indians of the Illinois Confederacy, one of the oldest and most important nations of the historic Indians. They were six tribes, all of Algonquin linguistic stock—the Cahokia, Kaskaskia, Tamoroa, Peoria, Moigwena, and Michigamea. They called themselves by a name variously recorded as Aliniouck, Illinouek, or Iliniwek, meaning "superior men." This apparently was shortened at times by themselves to Ilini, as the Sieur de La Salle identified them in his journal as the "Illini," and named the Illinois river for the Indian nation which lived along its banks.

Though traders and explorers had brought back word of the great prairie lands inhabited by the Illini for several years previous to their first exploration, no white man had visited them until Jean Talon, Intendant of Canada, dispatched Louis Jolliet to the region to claim the territory for France.

Jolliet, who had abandoned the priesthood to become a fur trader and explorer, already had mapped portions of the Great Lakes area. He was requested to take with him Jacques Marquette, a Jesuit priest. This seems to have been at the instigation of Jesuit authorities in Quebec who wished to plant their missions in the new territory.

These two, with five *voyageurs*, were the first white men to venture into this part of the New World. They left Mackinac in May, 1763, in canoes, traveling by way of the Fox and Wisconsin rivers to the Mississippi. They descended as far as the mouth of the Ohio river to assure themselves that the Mississippi flowed, not to a western ocean, but to the Gulf of Mexico. Two years later Marquette established the first mission in the Illinois country.

No serious attempts to exploit the country were made, however, until La Salle, in 1680, built Fort Crevecoeur on the Illinois river two miles south of Lake Peoria. Fort "Heartbreak" was well named; during La Salle's absence some of his men mutinied and plundered the fort. In 1682 La Salle, still envisioning a rich wilderness empire for France in

the prairie country, established another fort, St. Louis, at Starved Rock with the aid of the Chevalier de Tonti, the fabulous "Tonty of the Iron Hand." Tonti carried on after La Salle was shot from ambush in 1687, and at Tonti's death in 1704 a series of forts and trading centers reaching from Montreal to Mobile stood as his monument.

The first official use of the name "Illinois" for this territory was in the 1720's when it was applied to the seventh civil and military district of the French province of Louisiana.

But during the years in which the French were establishing themselves in this region, British traders of the American colonies pushed westward, and were soon at the boundaries of French territory. The Ohio Land Company, organized in 1747, was granted 2,000,000 acres of land along the Ohio river in 1749 on condition that the area be fortified and a hundred families settled there within seven years. The inevitable struggle between the French and British for control resulted in the French and Indian War, at the end of which control of all French possessions passed to the British.

The British did not emphasize colonization, however, and the French influence remained strong, so that sympathies in this territory were largely with the Colonies at the outbreak of the American Revolution. The Illinois country became so strategically important during the Revolution that the George Rogers Clark expedition was organized under the authority of the Governor of Virginia. Clark floated down the Ohio river to Fort Massac, went overland to Kaskaskia, and gained formal allegiance of the Illinois colonists by persuading them to sign the Oath of Vincennes.

When news of this reached the Virginia Assembly, Illinois was promptly declared to be a county of Virginia, and just as promptly became British territory again when six days later Vincennes was captured by a British force under Governor Hamilton of Detroit.

Few states have experienced so many and so rapid changes of ownership, for Clark immediately set out on his famous march on Vincennes, one of the most courageous performances in our history. In the dead of winter, Clark marched with 170 men through the icy water of flooded bottom lands, attacked Vincennes, and on February 25, 1779, received the surrender of Governor Hamilton's force. Military operations from this time until the close of the Revolution were sporadic.

Settlers in the territory, however, were continually harrassed by the Indians, at the incitement of the British. The Ordinance of 1787 organized Illinois, together with Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin and Michigan, into the Northwest Territory under a territorial government which granted limited suffrage. The irregular Indian warfare throughout this region rose to full scale when Tecumseh and his brother, the Shawnee Prophet, organized the Indians of the Northwest Territory to drive the white man from their land.

INDIAN WARFARE

Despite the Indian warfare and pioneer hardships, however, the white man continued to push westward in increasing numbers. In 1800 Congress passed an act effective the next year which incorporated the present state of Illinois into Indiana Territory, and eight years later the Territory of Illinois was created to include what is now Wisconsin. In 1818, on December 3, Illinois was admitted as a state of the Union with a population of 40,258, in spite of a provision of the Ordinance of 1787 which specified a population of 60,000 for any territory applying for admission to the Union. Shadrach Bond became the first governor of the state of Illinois, and the capital was established at Kaskaskia, though two years later it was moved to Vandalia. The present boundaries of the state were moved 51 miles northward in this year, from the southern tip of Lake Michigan, to give the state a shoreline. The

first constitutional convention met, wrote a constitution, and submitted it to Congress without ratification by a popular vote.

During this period in which Illinois was achieving statehood the country had fought the War of 1812, and the British to the north of Illinois had made good use of their Indian allies. Their success in the capture of Detroit and of Mackinac in July, 1812, aroused apprehension among settlers at Fort Dearborn, located on a tract of land at the mouth of the Checagou, or Chicago, river, which had been ceded by the Indians in 1795. It was the site on which later the city of Chicago was to rise.

On the morning of August 15, 1812, the settlers evacuated Fort Dearborn and started for the greater safety of Fort Wayne. Two miles from the fort a large band of Potawatomi in full war regalia swept down on them and massacred 43 men, two women, and 12 children—57 of the 93 white persons who evacuated the fort. The survivors were 23 men, seven women and six children. Nine of the men and two women were ransomed, and one of the children was later purchased from some Indians by a trader. The fate of the others is unknown, or at best obscure. Thus the violent history of Chicago began with the Massacre of Fort Dearborn.

Previous to this, however, the scene had been laid for one of the blackest pages in Illinois history—the Black Hawk War.

The Sac and Fox Indians had lived along the shores of the Mississippi for a hundred years, using as their hunting grounds the region from the Wisconsin river to the Missouri. The center of their culture was the village of Saukenuk, near the present Rock Island. Here were their burying grounds, ceremonial sites, and 3,000 acres under cultivation, in which they took great pride. The land was theirs not only by heritage, but by a treaty concluded in 1804.

In that year, five chiefs of the confederated tribes, in St. Louis to protect the interests of a tribesman accused of murder, were persuaded, after lengthy discussions involving several bottles of whiskey, to deed to the government all the land between the Wisconsin, Fox, Illinois and Mississippi rivers, as well as the eastern third of the state of Missouri—in all, about 5,000,000 acres. In return, they were to receive an annuity of \$1,000 a year and a guarantee that "Indians belonging to said tribes should enjoy the privilege of living or hunting upon" the land as long as it belonged to the federal government.

In 1823 squatters invaded the Sac territory, though land was plentiful elsewhere, and began fencing in land under cultivation by the Indians. Trouble resulted and complaints were made. In 1828 the governor notified the tribes that the lands covered by the treaty of 1804 were to be surrendered and ordered the Indians to move west of the Mississippi by April, 1830. When the Sac braves returned from their annual hunt in the spring of that year they found that settlers, emboldened by the Presidential order, had taken possession of their farms, driven off the squaws and children, burned the lodges, and plowed their burying grounds. The settlers ordered the Indians to depart.

Chief Keokuk moved with a large part of the tribes across the river into what is now Iowa, but the war chief of the Sacs, Black Hawk, defied the settlers and said it was the whites who must withdraw from his people's land. The governor proclaimed Illinois to be in a state of invasion by the Indians and a volunteer army was raised and advanced on the village. Black Hawk and his tribesmen evacuated at night and crossed the river into Iowa.

A year later Black Hawk, recrossing the river to join a friendly tribe in Wisconsin and raise a crop with them, was encountered by a number of federal troops under Maj. Isiah Stillman. Braves bearing a flag of truce were fired on and three Sacs killed. Black Hawk abandoned his peaceful intentions and with a band of 40 warriors attacked Stillman's force of 275 troops. The encounter, known as the Battle of Stillman's Run, was an embarrassing fiasco for the major, who employed evasive tactics at great speed. His gallant band streamed through

Dixon's, 30 miles away, in complete rout and many galloped 40 to 50 miles beyond to the safety of their homes, spreading word that the bloodthirsty Black Hawk was on the warpath, had attacked in force and massacred most of their troops.

Troops were dispatched to hunt down Black Hawk's band. His proposals for truce were ignored. His warriors, women and children, enfeebled by starvation, were reduced to eating bark from trees. Women and children, placed on rafts and canoes to recross the river to Iowa, were fired on by the troops and killed or drowned. After three months of this sort of warfare, most of the braves were killed at the Battle of Bad Ax, during which a military vessel on the river fired cannister into the Indians while Black Hawk, holding a white flag, was making offers to surrender. The remainder were bayoneted, driven into the river to drown, and shot out of treetops in which they took refuge, to the accompaniment of indescribable acts of savagery and cruelty. Most of a few who escaped across the river were killed by Sioux who were ordered to attack by General Atkinson. Black Hawk disappeared into the forests.

This was the last of the Indian in Illinois. The "war" had cost the government \$2,000,000. The state had mustered 8,000 volunteers to assist 1,500 regulars in expelling 400 Indians, and over a thousand lives had been lost.

THE GROWTH OF A STATE

The next year, 1833, Chicago was incorporated as a town. It was merely a rebuilt Fort Dearborn, with a population of less than 200, and showed little signs of life. But that same year a wave of westward migration began and thousands streamed through Chicago as they invaded the western lands by way of the Great Lakes. Before the opening of the Erie Canal in 1825, Shawneetown on the Ohio had been port of entry to Illinois; now Chicago was replacing it. A land boom in northern Illinois further contributed to the city's growth, and within a year its population rose to more than 2,000.

Besides the Great Lakes traffic there were the river boats to contribute to the growth of the state. Only a little more than 20 years ago—in 1811—the first steamboat in the west had made its appearance; now more than 200 plied the Mississippi and Ohio. The smaller navigable rivers, particularly the Illinois, carried their share of the traffic. Most of Illinois' exports went down the Mississippi to New Orleans, rather than east to Pittsburgh, because of lower freight rates. During this period the river towns prospered and the prairies remained largely undeveloped except for the pioneer families who moved in advance of civilization.

By 1833, 13 newspapers were being published in the state, and as new counties were added—they increased from 19 in 1820 to 57 in 1835—additional papers commenced publication in the new county seats.

In 1834 a New Salem lawyer named Abraham Lincoln, who had commanded a volunteer company of mounted troops in the Black Hawk War, was elected to the legislature. A young man named Jefferson Davis had been a lieutenant in another company of volunteers.

The state began to take an interest in its commercial development. A rivers and harbor bill passed in 1837 provided for improvements and added facilities on the waterways. A railroad was planned to traverse the state from Galena to Cairo, with two intersecting lines, one linking the Great Lakes and Illinois river. Part of the road eventually was completed, but was never successful.

It was not until the 1850's that the railroads came to Illinois to change completely the structure of its commerce and industry. Congress granted in 1850 more than 2,500,000 acres for the construction of a line, and eastern financiers organized the Illinois Central com-

pany. When the 366 miles of road from Chicago to Cairo were completed, six years later, the prairies ceased to be a part of the wilderness, and began to support thriving towns. Other railroads soon followed the Illinois Central and Chicago was well on its way to becoming the rail hub of the nation. The railroads required coal, and provided transportation for it. The state's rich coal fields, which had provided a few small mines near the rivers, began to produce.

The population of the state increased more than tenfold during the 30 years from 1830 to 1860, growing from 157,445 to 1,711,951. McCormick was making reapers in Chicago, and Pullman was converting coaches to sleeping cars. The state had enacted a free school law, and boasted three colleges and universities.

CIVIL WAR YEARS

During this period the nation was dividing itself over the issues which resulted in the Civil War, and Illinois was one of the focal points of the struggle, providing two of the leading actors in the drama.

Lincoln, the leader of a group which had secured removal of the state capital from Vandalia to Springfield in 1839, had developed his political acumen to the point where he emerged as leader of the Republican party when it was organized in 1856.

The new party was composed mostly of dissident Democrats and Whigs who opposed the Kansas-Nebraska bill, which was sponsored by Stephen A. Douglas in 1854. The bill proposed repeal of the Missouri Compromise, which prohibited slavery above the latitude of 36° 30', and would give settlers in the new territory their choice between free soil and slavery.

The people of Illinois were divided sharply on slavery. The southern extremes of the state reached into the cotton country and had been settled mostly by southerners, while the Yankee free-soilers had settled the northern part of the state. Petitions to Congress and sharp battles in the state legislature characterized the differences of opinion. Abolitionist activity provoked such bitter controversy that in 1837 the legislature prohibited the circulation of abolitionist literature, and it was in this year that the murder of Elijah P. Lovejoy, an abolitionist editor, became a cause celebre.

Lovejoy, a native of Maine and the son of a Congregationalist minister, had been editor of a religious paper in St. Louis in which he aired his anti-slavery views. As a result of his writings he was removed as editor, but a change of ownership caused him to continue, with the announced intention of moving the paper to Alton, Ill.

The night before the presses and equipment were to be transferred, a mob entered the office and destroyed most of it. What remained was shipped to Alton, but the night after it landed another mob threw the presses into the river. A mass meeting at Alton deplored the mob activity and subscribed money for new presses. Lovejoy finally began publishing the *Alton Observer*, which continued for several months, growing more vocal about abolition, until a mob broke into the office and again destroyed the presses. Contributors again raised money for new equipment. When the presses arrived, a mob broke into a warehouse, broke up the presses, and threw them into the river. A fourth press was ordered. Prominent citizens who were not in sympathy with Lovejoy's views called a public meeting to consider the situation.

It was being suggested that Lovejoy and his paper should be moved to some other community, and the suggestions were being reinforced with threats of tar and feathers and assassination, and stonings of his home which had forced his invalid wife into the garret. Lovejoy appeared at the meeting to speak in his own defense and delivered a stirring insistence upon his rights of freedom of the press:

"... I have asked for nothing but to be protected in my rights as a

citizen—rights which God has given me, and which are guaranteed to me by the constitution of my country. Have I, sir, been guilty of any infraction of the law? What, I ask, has been my offense? Put your finger upon it—define it—and I stand ready to answer for it. . . . I plant myself, sir, down on my unquestionable rights, and the question to be decided is, whether I shall be protected in the exercise and enjoyment of those rights. . . . I have concluded to remain at Alton, and here to insist on protection in the exercise of my rights. If the civil authorities refuse to protect me, I must look to God; and if I die, I have determined to make my grave in Alton.”

Some sympathy for Lovejoy resulted from his speech, but on the night that his fourth press was placed in a warehouse, with a guard posted around it, a mob appeared and demanded that they be allowed to remove the press. The guards refused, and the building was attacked. Lovejoy himself appeared, and fired on a man who was climbing a ladder to set a torch to the roof. Two men who apparently had anticipated Lovejoy's appearance fired on him from ambush and killed him.

Several persons identified with the mob were tried and acquitted. The owners of the warehouse were tried for inciting to riot, and also acquitted.

An interesting sidelight to the affair is supplied by one historian. “It was claimed that the fatal shots were fired by Dr. Jennings and his comrade, Dr. Beall. And it is said that the former was afterward cut to pieces in a barroom fight in Vicksburg, Miss., and that the latter, while attached to a scouting party of Texas rangers, was captured by the Comanche Indians and burned alive.”

Lovejoy's death, though nearly forgotten today, created widespread discussion. Newspapers throughout the country appeared in mourning and he was mourned in mass meetings as a martyr to his convictions on slavery and the freedom of the press.

A Republican governor was elected the year the party was organized. The next year brought the Dred Scott decision, which held the Missouri Compromise unconstitutional, and brought on the issue of free soil or popular sovereignty. It was this question on which Lincoln and Douglas differed during the senatorial campaign of 1858 and argued in the famous Lincoln-Douglas debates held at Freeport, Charlestown, Galesburg, Quincy, Jonesboro, Ottawa and Alton. Douglas became the senator from Illinois; in 1860 Lincoln was elected President of the United States.

In April, 1861, the controversy over slavery had flared into war, and Governor Richard Yates was called on to furnish Illinois troops. The state was still divided into bitter factions, and southern sentiment was so strong in the “delta” in the southern end of the state that there was talk of seceding and organizing the state of “Egypt” to join the Confederacy. Douglas returned to plead for unity and adherence to the Union cause. But although opposition was strong in parts of the state, it remained loyal and furnished 256,297 soldiers who represented Illinois in most of the war's major battles. Nearly 29,000 died of wounds or disease.

The end of the war, with the problems of reconstruction and the country's trend from agriculture to industrialism, found Illinois in a position to emerge as one of the great industrial states, with a network of railroads and waterways and rich mineral resources.

INDUSTRY AND THE LABOR MOVEMENT

Until 1870 the riches of Illinois had consisted of its corn, wheat and pork. Now these began pouring into Chicago, the lake port, which would soon become the world's largest grain market and supplier of one-fourth of the country's meat products. Chicago rolling mills produced the country's first steel rails in 1865 and eight years later the introduction of Bessemer furnaces, at Joliet, gave new stimulus to mining the millions

of acres of coal underlying the state. The manufacture of farm implements became an important industry. Every new industry invited another, and by the end of the 1870's, Chicago was the greatest manufacturing center of the west. In 1870 the value of farm products and of manufactured goods in Illinois was about equal, at around \$200,000,000. At the end of the decade, agricultural values remained unchanged, but the value of manufactured goods had more than doubled. In the next 10 years, it more than doubled again.

But industry was concentrated. Illinois was still the prairie state, with 30 of its 35 million acres of land under cultivation. The farmers were a potentially influential group, lacking only organization, and their differences with industry over the disparity of farm prices and those of manufactured goods, discriminatory freight rates, and "middleman profits" resulted in their organization. The Grange movement, begun as a cooperative venture to buy farm machinery at a saving for its members, became a powerful political factor. Grange approved candidates were winning political office, and the movement forced adoption of a railroad act in 1871 to adjust some of the inequalities.

Another group which began to make itself heard at this time was the workers. There had been some organization of labor before the Civil War. Foreign workmen, imported for the building of the railroads and canals, had brought from Europe an appreciation of the benefits of labor unions, which had developed from the guilds of the old countries and were common in many European cities. Mechanics' unions in Chicago were a factor in obtaining passage of the free school law in 1855. English miners organized during the Civil War the American Miners' Association, which remained active for only seven years. A number of trade unions sprang up during the postwar depression. One of the greatest aids in recruiting workingmen into the unions was provided by the industrialists themselves, who obtained the passage in 1863 of the La Salle Black Law as their answer to strikes in the coal mines.

The Black Law protected strikebreakers by making it an offense to prevent anyone from working at any occupation on whatever terms he might choose, and obliquely made unions illegal by prohibiting "combining" for the purpose of depriving a property owner of his right to use or manage the property.

Labor now realized the need for political action, and worked so effectively to this end that both major parties were soon finding it necessary to appease labor. In 1866 the National Labor Union was organized, and workingmen joined Eight-hour Leagues to support political candidates pledged to initiate legislation for an eight-hour day.

A sufficient number of labor-supported candidates were, in fact, elected and in 1867 Illinois became the first state to adopt, in theory at least, the eight-hour day. The measure defined a legal day's work as eight hours of labor, providing there was no "special contract or agreement to the contrary."

The result, of course, was that employers, as one man, drew up special contracts and agreements to the contrary. A further announcement by employers that any laborer unwilling to work 10 hours a day would be fired was met by a general strike in Chicago. The strike lasted two days, ended by Mayor Rice's threat to apply the Black Law. This was the last of the eight-hour day for several years.

The Knights of Labor were organized in 1869, and at about the same time the Workingmen's Party of Illinois entered the political scene with a platform calling for public ownership of transportation and communication facilities, state management of banks, child labor prohibition, compulsory education of children under 14, adjustment of wages, and anti-monopoly legislation. While this program was not realized, the influence of labor was strong enough to force enactment of the general mining act in 1872, which prohibited employing children under 14, though two years later the age limit was lowered to 12.

The depression of 1873 gave organized labor a setback, but when

business returned to normal and wages remained at depression levels, union membership grew again. In 1877 membership had increased considerably, and delegates of 17 trade unions met in Chicago to form the Trade Council, which two years later became the Trade and Labor Assembly and later developed into the Chicago Federation of Labor. Factory and railroad workers struck for higher wages and an eight-hour day. They were led by Albert Parsons, later to be heard of in the Haymarket Riot. Federal troops broke the strike. The next year four candidates of the Socialist party were elected to the General Assembly.

Beginning in 1880 membership in labor organizations increased rapidly. By 1886 the Knights of Labor had more than 50,000 members in Illinois and the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions, which later became the American Federation of Labor, had enrolled workers by the thousands. Another labor group was the Central Labor Union, most of whose organizers were affiliated with the Black International, an anarchist group. The CLU had recruited successfully among carpenters and hod carriers, cabinet makers and similar trades.

The unions now felt themselves powerful enough to force their demands for an eight-hour day, and the Trade and Labor Assembly united with the CLU in calling out 100,000 workers on a general strike on May 1, 1886. This set the scene for the Haymarket Riot, an affair which affected the labor movement all over the country and set it back an indeterminable number of years.

The strike went along peacefully for two days. On May 2, two days before the Haymarket Riot, an altercation at the McCormick reaper plant, where 1,500 workers had been locked out for three months and replaced with strikebreakers under the protection of Pinkerton men, had attracted the attention of a crowd listening to August Spies, a labor paper editor, talk on the eight-hour day. As the crowd moved toward the plant police fired into it, killing six and wounding several others.

The meeting on the night of the Haymarket Riot, May 4, had been called by Spies to protest the "police atrocity." About 3,000 persons heard Spies and Albert Parsons, now also a labor paper editor, speak on "Justice" and "The Eight-hour Day." The rain scattered a good part of the crowd. It is estimated that about 500 were present when the speech of Samuel Fielden, a labor organizer, was interrupted by police.

Mayor Carter Harrison of Chicago had been attending the meeting, and having assured himself of its peaceable nature, had met Inspector John Bonfield at the Desplaines street police station and told him that "nothing is likely to occur that will require interference." Mayor Harrison left the station, and Bonfield immediately went to the meeting with 200 policemen and ordered the crowd to disperse. Fielden was protesting that the meeting was a peaceable one when someone whose identity was never learned threw a dynamite bomb which killed eight police, wounded 65, and killed an undetermined number in the crowd.

Eight labor leaders, including the three who had addressed the meeting, were indicted by the grand jury. Seven of the defendants were sentenced to hang; one, Oscar Neebe, was given 15 years imprisonment. Governor Richard Oglesby, a few hours before the executions, commuted the sentences of Fielden and Michael Schwab, a labor leader, to life imprisonment. Louis Lingg committed suicide the night before the executions by exploding a fusecap in his mouth. On Nov. 11, 1887, the remaining four defendants were hanged. They were Spies, Parsons, George Engel, and Adolph Fischer.

The cause of unionism suffered a heavy blow. Anarchy and unionism were synonymous in many minds for years, and labor activity receded until the administration of Governor Altgeld in 1892. Despite the widespread antipathy to unionism, however, membership in unions continued to grow and under the Altgeld administration activity revived in both the legislature and the factory.

In 1893 a bill passed the legislature which prohibited employers from interfering with their workers' right to join any lawful union, and in the same year the Sweatshop Law was passed. This set the working

day at eight hours and the week at 48 for women and set the minimum age limit of factory workers at 14. Employer groups, however, attacked the legality of the measures and eventually the courts declared unconstitutional the entire union bill and the section of the Sweatshop Law which limited the working hours of women.

In 1893 Eugene V. Debs organized the American Railway Union, whose members walked out in May the next year to begin the famous Pullman strike. The end of the strike two months later added another chapter in the history of strikes broken by the use of federal troops, gained the strikers nothing and Governor Altgeld's conduct furnished his enemies with a weapon which, along with his pardon of the imprisoned defendants of the Haymarket trials, was used to defeat him for a second term.

The strike resulted from the firing of members of the union's grievance committee who had asked for restoration of wage cuts. When the Pullman company refused to arbitrate, the union announced it would not handle Pullman cars. At this time it had more than 150,000 members in the railroad industry, and a nationwide snarl of railway traffic resulted. The Managers' Association of railroad executives ordered the firing of any employee who refused to handle the cars, and joined the Pullman company in hiring strikebreakers.

The federal government became involved when strikebreakers attached mail cars to Pullman trains. When the strikers stopped the Pullmans, railroad management complained to the government that they were stopping the mails. About 3,400 men, called by the Chicago superintendent of police "thugs, thieves, and ex-convicts," were sworn in as special federal deputy marshals at the request of the Managers' Association. Federal Judge Grosscup issued an injunction ordering the strikers to cease interfering with the mails and interstate commerce, and President Cleveland ordered four companies of regular army troops to the scene.

Governor Altgeld protested the assignment of army troops to the strike theater, pointing out that local authorities had given no indication of needing assistance. In fact, Debs had carefully instructed the strikers to refrain from violence, and the strike had been so well conducted that a good share of public opinion was with the union. Altgeld charged that the state government was being ignored by "men who had political and selfish motives," and asked for immediate withdrawal of the troops.

The troops were used in an attempt to move traffic on the railroads, and the restraint which had characterized the conduct of the strikers disappeared. Railroad equipment was broken and burned to the accompaniment of rioting, and Altgeld was forced to muster five regiments of state militia, members of which killed seven strikers when they fired on them July 7. Debs was arrested for violation of Judge Grosscup's injunction, and five days later AFL executives in special session in Chicago advised the strikers to return to work. Debs was sentenced to six months' imprisonment and though some of the strikers refused to return for several weeks, the companies had for all practical purposes broken the strike.

Three years later, however, in 1897, Illinois coal miners won a less spectacular but more successful strike in which they gained wage increases, an eight-hour day, and recognition of their union.

The struggle between labor and management during these years checked the state's industrial growth little, if any, and even the depression of the 90's seemed to have little effect in the state which was so busily growing up.

For the next 20 years the story of industry in the state was the history of the growth of monopolies, indicated by figures which show that while the value of manufactured goods doubled and redoubled, the number of corporations did not increase accordingly. This was the period during which the steel trusts swallowed the small companies, the International Harvester company combined six manufacturers of farm

equipment to monopolize the field, and Chicago packing companies were wedded into the National Packing company, which produced nearly a quarter of the country's meat products the year it was dissolved.

By 1920 the great corporations which produced three-quarters of the manufactured goods in Illinois numbered only 4 percent of all the companies and corporations in the state.

The boom years following World War I gave another boost to the industrial growth of the state, which was checked by the depression following the market crash of 1929.

Labor continued to gain strength and legislators became more labor minded. The State Board of Arbitration had been established during Altgeld's administration and was notably successful in the arbitration of strikes. The office was absorbed by the Industrial Commission in 1917.

The Sweatshop Law was effective until the factory inspectors appointed during Altgeld's administration were removed. Enactment of the State-Use Law in 1903 abolished one of the practices of which labor had long complained—that of using convict labor in the clothing, furniture, and other industries on the contract system, which had lowered workers' wages. Revisions of the Mining Code improved working conditions in the mines; the Occupational Disease Act was passed in 1911 and the Workmen's Compensation Law in 1913. An act of 1925 prohibited the issuance of injunctions to prevent peaceable picketing, and in 1933 minimum wages for women and children were fixed by law.

Illinois has contributed as much to the history of violence and bloodshed in the labor movement, perhaps, as any other state, and these years were not without examples. The Industrial Workers of the World were organized in Chicago in 1905 by Debs, "Big Bill" Haywood and others, and the "Wobblies" ended in Chicago in 1919 when Federal Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis tried and found guilty of criminal syndicalism more than 100 of them.

The Herrin Massacre during the national coal strike of 1922 created excitement throughout the country. During the shutdown of the mines, operators of a strip pit near Herrin in Williamson county, heart of the southern Illinois coal fields, attempted to run with nonunion labor. On June 21 two union men were killed and a third fatally wounded in a disturbance at the mine. The next day union men besieged the mine and the strip miners agreed to quit the mine and leave the county under a safe conduct guaranteed by a leader of the strikers. As they were being conducted away, however, a group of the strikers disavowed the authority of the leader who had given the safe conduct guarantee, shot the mine superintendent and fired on the strip miners as they ran. Of the latter, 13 were killed and seven fatally wounded. A special grand jury returned 214 indictments in connection with the massacre but no convictions were obtained on them.

Most recent of these episodes was the Memorial Day Massacre in 1937 when police opened fire on a number of strikers moving across a field near the Republic Steel works in south Chicago and killed 10. Local authorities found the police guiltless, although they were criticized sharply by the Senate Committee on civil liberties.

THE GOVERNMENT OF ILLINOIS

In spite of the radical changes which have characterized the history of Illinois since 1870, the state government still works under a constitution adopted in that year.

Mention has been made of the state's original constitution, adopted in 1818. This was a brief, simple document, suitable for the frontier state, but soon became unworkable and a second constitution was adopted in 1848. So rapid was the state's growth in size and complexity that this, too, became unsuitable in a few years, and 14 years later

the constitutional convention of 1862 met to draft a new document. Both the delegates and the voters who later disapproved the proposed new constitution were too much concerned with and divided over the questions of the Civil War. A second convention met in 1869, and this time a constitution satisfactory to the voters emerged. This set of principles, adopted in 1870, still prescribes the government of the state.

Many of the complaints concerning the aged constitution have come from Chicago, a matter which was anticipated by one of the delegates to the convention which drafted the document. He prophesied that Chicago would "soon wish to be outside of this state for want of a constitution large enough to hold her."

This delegate was obviously referring to the broadness of the terms rather than the size of the document, for the constitution of Illinois is more than three times as long as the constitution of the United States, and contains a mass of detail which contributes to its present unwieldiness. Complaints came from the state senate as early as 1893 that the restrictions of the constitution made it impossible for them to deal with social and economic issues demanding solution.

The state's tax structure became outmoded, the judicial organization needed revision, and the form of ballot confronting the voter in the polls has probably contributed much to the election irregularities for which parts of the state, notably Chicago, are famous.

The press and the state bar association added their voices to the chorus of dissatisfaction, and by 1918 a convention was authorized to revise the constitution. This convention labored for two and a half years, much of the time in recess, and finally submitted a thoroughly rewritten document which attempted to remedy the situation in Chicago by granting an extent of home rule, revised the judiciary, shortened the ballot and included an authorization for a state income tax in a revised tax system.

The voters were frightened by the provisions of the tax section and were suspicious of the manner in which certain parts of the old constitution had been rewritten. The proposed constitution was overwhelmingly rejected, and voters turned down a suggestion for another convention in 1934.

It is, of course, possible to amend the constitution, but one of the chief objections to that document is that the drafters who wished to prevent promiscuous tampering did their work so well that amending is difficult at best. Since 1870 the constitution has been amended only seven times, the last in 1908.

Illinois' constitution specifies executive, legislative and judicial departments, as in the federal government. Elective officers of the executive branch are governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, auditor of public accounts, state treasurer, attorney general and superintendent of public instruction, all for terms of four years except the treasurer, whose tenure is two years. The treasurer is the only officer who may not succeed himself.

In the legislative department are one senator and three representatives from each of the 51 general assembly districts. Senators are elected for four years and representatives for two.

The state is divided into seven judicial districts, from each of which one Supreme court justice is elected for a nine year term. The clerk of Supreme court is elected for six years. Circuit court judges are elected from the 17 judicial circuits, three judges in each for six year terms. An Appellate court clerk completes the list of the state's elective officers.

Following is a list of the annual salaries paid to elective officers:

Governor	\$12,000
Lieutenant governor	5,000
Secretary of state	9,000
Auditor of public accounts	9,000
State treasurer	9,000

Superintendent of public instruction	9,000
Attorney general	9,000
Supreme court judge	15,000
Circuit court judge	8,000
Clerk of Supreme court	7,500
Senator	2,500
Assemblyman	2,500

Illinois is the parent of three political innovations, two of which are peculiar to the state, another of which has since been adopted by most of the other states.

A Civil Administrative Code worked out by the general assembly in 1917 under the direction of Gov. Frank O. Lowden was the first to be adopted by any state. Lowden devised the plan to consolidate a complex system of autonomous state boards, agencies and commissions whose numbers had been increased by war demands. All the state agencies were concentrated in nine "code departments": agriculture, finance, labor, mines and minerals, public health, public welfare, public works and buildings, registration and education and trade and commerce. Since the original reorganization the departments of insurance, conservation, public safety and revenue have been added and that of trade and commerce abolished. The department head is given authority over all agencies and activities coming under his department and is responsible to the governor. Most of the larger states have since adopted a civil administration code or similar plan.

The two peculiarities of Illinois government are cumulative voting, or "plumping," and a dual system of county government.

Cumulative voting is Illinois' unique system for electing representatives to the lower house of the legislature. The constitution provides that "each qualified voter may cast as many votes for one candidate as there are representatives to be elected, or may distribute the same, or equal parts thereof, among the candidates." Since three assemblymen are elected from each district the voter has three votes which he may cast for one candidate if he wishes. Voters of the minority party "plump" their votes for one candidate and are usually successful in sending one representative to the general assembly. At times the system has resulted in so small a margin for the party in power that the work of the lower house has been impeded.

It has been pointed out that the northern sections of Illinois were settled largely by New Englanders, derisively referred to as "Yankee clock peddlers" by southerners who settled in the lower part of the state. The mutual regard of the northerners and southerners is illustrated by the remarks of a hardshell Baptist preacher, Father Biggs, who, discoursing on the universality of God's grace, declared it "tuk in the isles of the sea and the uttermost parts of the y'arth. It embraces the Eskimo and the Hottentots and some, my dear brethren, go so far as to suppose it takes in the poor benighted Yankees—but I don't go that fur!"

The refusal of the two groups to accept each other's customs is reflected today in the employment of two distinct systems of county government. Eighty-five of the counties are governed by the township organization which evidences their New England colonization, while 17 counties of southern Illinois are patterned after the unit system of county government in southern states.

Counties under township organization are divided for political purposes into local areas, each of which elects a supervisor. Supervisors from the various townships comprise the county board, and the chairman of the board with two citizens appointed by the county judge constitute the county board of review.

Counties under the other form of government maintain a board of three commissioners, one commissioner being elected each year for a term of three years. The commission also acts as the county board of health and board of review. Boards make all appropriations for county activ-

ities, have charge of county properties, select grand juries and license public houses outside corporate limits. Other county officers are the state's attorney, sheriff, coroner, clerk, treasurer, superintendent of schools, auditor, recorder, surveyor and superintendent of highways. The judiciary consists of a county judge and clerk of court.

Cook county represents a compromise between the two plans. That part of the county lying outside the city limits is organized on the township plan, while townships within the city have been abolished. Ten commissioners from Chicago and five from the outlying townships form the county board.

Chicago itself has adopted the aldermanic plan, which the constitution makes optional with the commission plan for cities. Of the state's 297 incorporated cities, 74 use the commission plan and 223 the other. Chicago's 50 aldermen are elected from the city's wards and with a mayor, clerk and treasurer govern the city. Chicago complains that it is neither bond nor free; it has not the power to deal with the larger problems of a city of its size, and the state legislature is incapable of doing so. Proposals to remedy the situation have gone so far as to include one for creating a separate state of the city, which would be possible so far as the United States constitution is concerned.

The basis for the school system of Illinois was a survey system inaugurated by the Continental Congress under which the Northwest Territory was divided into townships (the congressional townships) of 36 square miles each. A grant of land in each township, to be used for educational purposes, was made by federal legislation.

Development of a public school system in Illinois was slow, however, an initial attempt in 1825 to levy compulsory school taxes being abandoned when the more conservative citizens of the new state denounced it as a Yankee trick.

The free school law was not enacted until 20 years later, but even this left the levying of school taxes optional with the voters of a township, and it was not until 1854 that a genuine program of public school development was begun. As a result, many private academies and seminaries were established during the 19th Century for the education of children of the wealthier citizens, and a relatively large number of private schools still remain.

On the credit side of the educational ledger in Illinois is the initiation of the land grant college movement in 1851. The land grant act was signed by President Lincoln in 1862.

The state now has about 14,000 public schools, six teachers' colleges, 37 colleges and universities, and 22 junior colleges.

Libraries of the state are administered by a director of public libraries. The state is divided into six library regions which contain 347 tax supported and 10 endowed libraries, containing more than 6,500,000 volumes.

Figures for 1943 showed 93 daily and 623 weekly papers being published in the state.

FARMING AND MINING

The state, in general, is a plain gently sloping from Lake Michigan on the east toward the Mississippi and Ohio rivers. It is nearly level; a plateau extends from Wisconsin into the northwest section of the state, where some bluffs and hills are found, but seldom does the elevation here rise above 800 feet, while the "grand prairie" averages 500 feet. The lowest portion of the state, at the junction of the Ohio and Mississippi, is 340 feet above the Gulf of Mexico.

Five rivers drain the state; the Mississippi, Illinois, Kaswaskia, Rock, and the Ohio with its tributary the Wabash. The state's only lakes of any considerable size are Lake Pistakee in the northeast and Lake

Peoria, which is formed by a widening of the Illinois river in Woodford and Peoria counties.

The origin of the soil of most of the state, which is diluvial, indicates that during some early geological age an immense lake covered most of what is now Illinois. As a result the land of the prairie is deep and fertile. In some bottom lands the loam and mould extend to a depth of 25 to 100 feet. Whatever the depth, a layer of dense clay lies under the loam and, being almost entirely impervious, it in great measure prevents the moisture from leaching away. Because of the great fertility Illinois can, and does, grow almost everything, including southern crops of cotton and fruits in the lower part of the state.

Agronomists of the University of Illinois have found that farming activities in the state divide naturally into nine areas, a different type of farming being characteristic of each area. Dairy and truck farms are found in the northeastern area; the northwestern area is characterized by mixed livestock with considerable dairying; hogs and beef cattle are the major farm products in the western area, classified as a livestock and grain section. An east central region is devoted almost wholly to cash grain farming, with two-thirds of all the farms in the area given to this type of crop during the period of the study. The west central section is one of diversified farming with livestock the major item. In the southwest poultry raising, dairying and wheat characterize the farms, while in the southeast region the general, diversified farm is again found with some grain and livestock farming. The south central area is one of small, general farms which specialize in nothing in particular. The last of the areas includes the fruit and vegetable country.

As a result of this varied agricultural activity Illinois, which is the fourth farm state of the country (outranked by Iowa, California and Texas), stands well toward the top in the production of most farm products with the exception of those typically southern. For example, it is the largest producer of soybeans; second largest producer of field and sweet corn, of hogs, and of American cheese; third in production of oats; fourth in evaporated milk and ice cream; fifth in chickens, milk production and sweet clover seed; sixth largest producer of eggs, and seventh in all cattle and calves raised.

Total farm area of the state is 35,806,000 acres, and the latest farm census showed 213,439 farms as going concerns in the state. Its 1942 gross cash income from farms was over \$1,000,000,000.

Illinois is also rich in minerals, being one of the great coal producing states, important in the oil industry, and a lavish source of stone and building materials.

Oddly enough, considering the earlier settlement and industrialization of the eastern coal producing states, it was in Illinois that coal was first discovered in America. Coal beds underlie three-fifths of the area of the state and because of their wave-like structure sometimes lie just under, or even on, the surface. Both shaft and strip mines are found in the state, and Illinois has the world's largest producing mines of each type—the West Frankfort shaft mine and Pinckneyville strip mine.

An interesting description of evidences of coal in early Illinois is found in the book of an English traveler, William Oliver, who visited Illinois in 1841 and 1842 in order to "afford as much information as possible to the poorer classes" of England and Scotland, many of whom were attracted to the idea of emigration to these new farm lands, but were deterred by a lack of information.

"There is every reason to believe," said Oliver, "that coal prevails throughout a large proportion of the Mississippi Valley, though, owing to the abundance of wood, the inhabitants have not hitherto paid much attendance to that mineral. A great drawback to the usefulness of the coal seams on the prairies is their frequently having no cover beyond the alluvial deposits of gravel and clay, which, when deep, render the coal quite unattainable by ordinary means. In some places

the seams are so near the surface that they are cut into by the waggon wheels in wet weather. . . . The seams are sometimes three and four feet thick. The coal is bituminous, and of excellent quality."

Illinois has been for several years the third largest producer of coal in the country, and there still remain large areas in which the presence of rich commercial deposits is suspected, but about which there has been little available information to date. Drilling for oil in the "Illinois Basin" field, for example, has recently revealed that holes were going through coal-bearing rock.

The greater part of the surface of Illinois was formed in the Carboniferous era. During one period the land was only a few feet above sea level, a wide stretch of swamp and marshlands in which grew the giant prehistoric trees and ferns which later pressed into strata of coal. The great coal field of the state is 375 miles long, lying from northwest to southeast, and about 200 miles wide, from St. Louis to the northeast. The veins are not so deep as those of Pennsylvania and Ohio, and the strata lie in waves which sometimes bring to the surface the formations of sandstone and limestone underlying the coal.

These stone formations are worked as a source of building material and limestone for agricultural purposes, of which the state is one of its own largest users. Illinois is the third largest producer of limestone and dolomite, and the country's largest source of sand and gravel, and of silica sand which is used in glass manufacture. One of the large glass manufacturers of the state turns out a million and a half a day of the glass marbles which furnish small boys with one of their major outdoor sports.

As an oil producing state Illinois ranks fifth in the country, both in volume and value. The exploitation of the oil resources in the state have been recent, as the following table shows:

	PRODUCING WELLS	PRODUCTION (BARRELS)
1936	52	4,445,000
1937	292	7,426,000
1938	2,010	24,075,000
1939	2,970	94,912,000
1940	3,080	147,647,000
1941	2,925	134,138,000
1942	1,179	106,590,000

Petroleum production in Illinois in 1942 is summarized in the following table from the Illinois Blue Book:

	UNIT	QUALITY	VALUE
Crude oil	bbls.	106,456,000	\$143,315,350
Natural gas	M.cu.ft.	13,333,437	400,000
Natural gasoline	gals.	66,616,000	2,664,640
Liquified petroleum gases	gals.	73,619,000	2,024,522

The northwestern part of the state, particularly in Jo Daviess county, includes the eastern terminal of the great western lead-bearing belt. At one time this was one of the most important lead and zinc producing districts of the country, and although production declined for some years, the stimulus of the war's demands resulted in the development of some new fields in this region. Pre-war production of the metals was about \$1,750,000 worth of lead and \$314,000 worth of zinc yearly, with some silver being refined from the argentiferous galena.

Clay and Fuller's earth are important items in the mineral production of the state. Clay is used in bonding the molding sands of the foundries and in the manufacture of the refractory brick which lines steel furnaces. The making of pottery has been a large industry in the state since 1865 when a large pottery works was established at Peoria.

As indicated previously, Illinois is basically a flat, level state, though it presents a broken appearance in certain regions owing to

the erosion of the streams. Illinois lay in the path of all four of the great ice caps or glaciers which moved across the northern United States. The third of the glaciers, which almost completely covered the state, is known among geologists as the Illinoian; the fourth, called the Wisconsin glacier, receded only 25,000 years ago, which practically amounts to modern times in geological terms. There has not been time for deep erosion since this recent flattening of the country, but its appearance before it was scraped flat by the glaciers—and its probable appearance in another million years or so—may be guessed from the topography of the seven southernmost counties of Illinois. Here, where the glaciers did not reach, the land is deeply dissected by valleys and ravines and has a rugged look uncharacteristic of the rest of the prairie state.

The present extent of the prairies, however, is due to the clearing of land by the early settlers. Before white men moved into the state nearly half of it was covered by forests, although farming and lumbering activities have now reduced the woodlands to about 5 percent of the state's area. Native trees are the oak, black walnut, sugar maple, ash, elm, locust, linden, hickory, persimmon, pecan, and in the bottom lands cottonwood, sycamore, buckeye, tulip tree, poplar, beech and black birch. There are yellow pine, cypress and cedar near the Ohio river, and the state has one stand of white pine.

A curious belief held by the first farmers to plow Illinois land was that only forest land was fertile, and the practice was to leave stumps in the cultivated fields, laboriously plowing around them. Actually, however, their preference for such land, rather than the open prairie, was probably a "sour grapes" rationalization because they were forced to settle for convenience along the rivers and wooded areas, and the early plow was unable to cope with the sticky sod of the prairies.

The conversion of the prairies to endless fields of grain did not begin until large-scale farming equipment was introduced. The invention of the steel plow, claimed by a number of persons, several of them Illinoisans, was surprisingly recent. Probably the first indisputable record of the manufacture of a steel plow is of one built by John Deere at Grand Detour in 1837. Crops, however, increased at a greater rate than did the labor necessary to cultivate them, and the need for labor-saving machinery was soon supplied. Cyrus Hall McCormick, by the middle 1850's, was producing nearly 100 mechanical reapers a week in Chicago.

Today the manufacture of farm equipment is one of the great industries and one in which Illinois leads the nation.

Conversion of the prairies to farms was not rapid, though, for several years. The dissemination of new ideas and the adoption of new equipment were slow in the frontier state. An example is the story of one farmer who saw his first team of horses in harness abreast during the Black Hawk War of 1832, was intrigued by the idea and sent away for a set of the harness. When it arrived, however, he was unable to make head or tail of it and it was not until a traveler from the east passed through some time later that he was able to get it assembled.

A picture in some detail of the life of the Illinois farmer of this period is found in the book of the English traveler, Oliver. His "Eight Months in Illinois, with Information to Emigrants" describes the ploughs in use in 1842 on a farm near Plum Prairie, east of Kaskaskia, where the steel plough being built in Chicago by Deere apparently either was unknown or regarded as a Yankee contraption. Oliver points out the differences between ploughing cleared land, "which is so light and friable that anything in the shape of a plough will stir it up," and ploughing the much tougher prairie.

For the lighter work "farmers often manufacture their own ploughs, especially the light one-horse plough; . . . as it is simple in its construction, when ploughing it can be lifted and thrown about in any direction to avoid the roots of scrubs, bushes, or any irregularities among the corn hills, which are very often far from being placed in

straight lines. A stout boy could lift one of them on his shoulder and carry it with ease.

"The prairie plough, though made much stronger than the small plough, is very seldom proportioned to the strain it has to bear; and, for the most part, makes wretched work. . . . By going so shallow, the plough is kept working among the very toughest of the rind; . . . the result must be very unsatisfactory. I have seen five yoke of oxen in one of these crazy, creaky things which, not infrequently, are converted, by one smash, into a bundle of sticks."

Working the prairie for a living, with such equipment, and surviving the bitter winters in the crude homes with only a fireplace for heat was a hard life at best. Oliver, who spent the winter on the Plum Prairie farm, tells of one cold spell during which "I attempted to write, but, although I heated the ink, which was hard frozen, and sat within as short a distance of the fire as I could, with the paper on my knee, I could not write one word; the ink seemed to vanish up the pen, and was frozen in an instant."

At a community hog-killing, when the slaughtered hogs were doused in barrels of scalding water, "the tops of the bristles became frozen together in a few seconds after the hogs were withdrawn from the hot water, and the carcasses were as hard as wood in not very many hours."

Hardships and the necessity of communal enterprises for survival under such conditions drew the prairie farmers together, and both the social and economic life were much different than today when modern equipment and conveniences make a farm nearly self-sufficient and the farmer, noted for his independent attitude, is listed among the last of the rugged individualists. Much of the work was done by collective effort, such as the community hog-killing, and community husking bees.

Oliver describes a "corn shocking or husking frolic" which he attended. "It was a scene full of novelty. Groups of wild-looking men, with long hair spread over their shoulders, and clad in home spun coats and trousers of Dutch build, were standing about, laughing and talking, whilst all around were seen fancifully caparisoned horses, with long tails and manes, attached by the bridles to the pliant branches of the trees. Newcomers were pouring in from all quarters, some carrying long rifles on their shoulders, and accoutred in belt and bullet pouch. . . .

"All things being prepared, a noisy consultation was held, when it was resolved and carried that the heap should be divided into two equal parts. On this being done, two men were being pitched upon as captains of the heaps, who having called sides, the battle commenced.

"No match at football or shinty was ever engaged in with more uproarious animation. The yells of defiance, mingled with whoops and yells in Indian style, arose in one continued medley, and reverberated far through the woods, whilst an unceasing shower of corn streamed through the air toward the roofless crib. . . .

"There is a plentiful libation of that most execrable of spirits, corn whisky, or of peach brandy. A red ear, which is now and then met with among the white flint corn, is always a signal for a round of the bottle.

"Sometimes, on similar occasions, a number of the ladies of the neighborhood assemble, and the affair finishes off with amusements, and if a fiddler can be procured, with a dance."

Another form of collective enterprise was the chopping bee, "where 20 or 30 choppers are collected. . . . The forest resounds with the blows of the axe, and ever and anon some tall monarch of the woods begins to topple, reclines gently to one side, and then rushes, with accelerating speed, and the roar of a whirlwind, to the thundering earth, amidst a chaos of smashed limbs and dust.

"Accidents sometimes occur, from the descent of pieces of shattered limbs, which have been pitched into the air; and my friend was one day felled to the earth with one which descended from a height of 70

or 80 feet, and though the touch was so slight that it barely ruffled the skin of his face, yet some of his teeth were splintered by it."

These were the primitive conditions under which Illinois was farmed prior to the state's great industrial expansion which commenced in the next decade or two, when railroads crossed the prairies to bring the isolated frontiersmen in touch with urban areas, and farm machinery converted the task of opening the soil of the prairies into a modern business.

Important as industrial aids were, however, men must precede the machinery onto the prairies before there is a need for it, and it was the pioneer farmer who opened the way for the great agrarian industry of today. Aware of the hardships of the life they were adopting, they ignored the warnings contained in accounts such as Oliver's, who concluded: "I wish it to be distinctly understood that I advise no man, whatever may be his circumstances, to emigrate either to illinois or to any other part of the world."

A great many of the earlier settlers, undoubtedly, were forced westward by economic reasons and found the struggle with nature more bearable than the struggle with poverty in urban areas, for, as Oliver said, "the poor are the proper immigrants to a new country, where thews and sinews are convertible into wealth."

Whatever their reason for coming, they came, and tamed the prairie, and in a hundred years the land of Illinois supported a rural population of more than 2,000,000 persons.

SWORD AND FIRE

Illinois has so often been host to riot, disaster and war that its story is not complete without passing mention of some of these episodes, though they may not be an integral part of its history.

Most famous of Illinois disasters is the Chicago fire of 1871.

In this year, Chicago had a population of about 300,000. It had tripled in the preceding 10 years; dwellings and business houses had been going up so rapidly that there was no time for brick and stone. An estimated seven-eighths of the city's 40,000 buildings were wooden.

Legend ascribes the beginning of the fire to a lantern kicked over by Mrs. O'Leary's cow. Whatever the cause, it started in a barn behind the home of Patrick O'Leary, where a three-story flat building now stands at 558 DeKoven street. Few houses more substantial than O'Leary's, of flimsy pine that was like tinder to the flames after months of searing drought, stood in the surrounding blocks. The fire, beginning on the night of October 8, a Sunday, was soon out of control and fanned by a strong southwest wind, swept northward across the river. At the height of the fire its heat could be felt on the eastern shore of Lake Michigan, 100 miles away. Before it burned itself out 27 hours later it had reduced three and a half square miles to ashes, including the present Loop district and the near north side to Fullerton avenue, destroying over 17,000 buildings at an estimated loss of \$192,000,000. At least 250 persons died in the fire.

A new city began to rise out of the ashes at once, and in three years little evidence of the fire remained.

One of the greatest losses of life by fire in the country's history occurred in Chicago in 1903 in the Iriquois Theater fire. A stage curtain blazed up as a capacity house filled the recently completed theater. A panic ensued and exits, already locked, were blocked by trampled bodies. Before the fire was brought under control 596 had perished and the resulting investigation resulted in the adoption of numerous fire pervention measures in European cities as well as throughout this country. Memorial services are held annually in the city council chambers on December 30, the anniversary of the disaster.

Even greater casualties resulted from the sinking of the excursion

steamer "Eastland" in Chicago harbor on July 24, 1915. The steamer had been chartered by the Western Electric company for an outing for company employes. It capsized as it was leaving the Clark street dock, drowning 812 persons, mostly residents of the western suburbs near the company's plant. The remodeled "Eastland" is still in service in Chicago waters as the "Wilmette," a naval reserve training ship.

The forerunner of the Eastland disaster, remembered now by few persons, was the loss of 297 lives when the Chicago excursion steamer "Lady Elgin" was rammed and sank off Waukegan on September 8, 1860.

"Outbreaks of the mob spirit," remarks John Moses, a historian of the state, "have been of rather frequent occurrence."

One of these occurrences led to virtual civil war in Massac country in 1846. An arrest on a robbery charge had revealed that a large number of persons in that and surrounding counties had formed a "crime syndicate." The syndicate's operations were so extensive that a good portion of the community banded together calling themselves "regulators," and gave notice to suspected members of the syndicate to leave the state. Another group of citizens who opposed the irregular measures became known as "flatheads." When the flatheads succeeded in electing a sheriff, the regulators seized a number of suspects, some of whom were driven from the county, some punished, some tortured for further confessions. Several regulators were lodged in jail as a result, but were freed in a jail delivery and the sheriff was ordered to leave the county.

Governor Ford finally sent a general of the militia to bring peace to Massac county. In a short time nearly everyone in the county, and a good many in adjoining counties, were arrayed on one side or the other. The civil war was never quelled, though state authorities tried several measures. The climax came when an army of regulators captured a sheriff's posse of about 60 men who had taken some regulators prisoners. Several of the posse were drowned in the Ohio river and the regulators were left in possession of the field, although riots flared up from time to time for many years.

One of the most grotesque chapters in Illinois history concerns the Mormon wars which kept the state militia busy for nearly two years.

The Mormons had been expelled from Missouri by the militia of that state and settled in a small village on the Mississippi, Commerce, in Hancock county. By 1842 the Mormons had taken over the small village which, now renamed Nauvoo, had outgrown Chicago with a population of 16,000.

Joseph Smith, leader of the Mormon colony, was mayor of the city under a charter of his own design which made him not only chief executive but judge of the municipal courts, head of the police department, president of the council, and commander of a private militia. Smith declared his courts and militia to be independent of state control, and then denounced the government of the United States and in 1844 announced that he was a candidate for President.

When a newspaper of the county attacked him in print, Smith had the press destroyed. Non-Mormon citizens of Hancock county procured warrants for the arrest of Smith and others but because of Smith's control of the courts and police it was impossible to bring him to trial.

Militia from Hancock and adjoining counties forced the surrender of Smith and his council. Joseph and his brother Hyrum were taken to Carthage for trial on charges of treason. A band of 150 angry disbanded militiamen broke into the jail that night and shot and killed both men.

Civil war now broke out in Hancock county between the Saints and Gentiles and marauding bands prowled the country, killing and burning houses. Several thousand armed citizens gathered for a "wolf hunt" were dispersed by militia from other counties. A state of anarchy, with frequent visits by militia, continued until September, 1846, when an armed force of Mormons entrenched in Nauvoo was attacked with infantry and artillery. At this time the last of the belligerents was expelled.

Today the village of Nauvoo contains a few members of the Re-

organized Church, headed by a grandson of Joseph Smith. The church claims to be the true Mormon church on the basis of leadership passing from father to son, while the Utah branch asserts leadership passed to the Twelve Apostles on Smith's death. But since both factions acknowledge Joseph Smith as the founder and true prophet, many Mormons regard this small village in Illinois as their Mecca.

PEOPLE OF ILLINOIS

In a list of the famous of Illinois, Abraham Lincoln would, of course, stand alone at the top. Though not native born, he is as much Illinois as the prairie itself.

Ulysses S. Grant, though an Ohioan by birth, was a resident of Galena, Ill., at the outbreak of the civil war, and volunteered his services in the Illinois militia to begin a career which made him first to hold commission as general of the armies of the United States and twice President.

Though not known as widely as he deserves, Governor Peter Altgeld was one of the country's great champions of justice. He voluntarily moved to his own political ruin with his famous Pardon Message which freed the three defendants of the Haymarket Riot trial who remained alive.

Stephen A. Douglas and William Jennings Bryan began their law practices in Jacksonville. Senator William E. Borah, though identified politically with Idaho, was born near Fairfield and attended school at Enfield.

A list of political figures of Illinois would not be complete without the name of "Big Bill" Thompson, mayor of Chicago during the Capone heyday, who amused the country with his private wars with the kings of England, from George III on down, and whose safety deposit boxes revealed hundreds of thousands of unexplained dollars on his death in 1944.

Illinois has contributed more noted figures to the field of literature than to any other. Theodore Dreiser, Carl Sandburg, Sherwood Anderson, Booth Tarkington, Ben Hecht, Edgar Lee Masters, Vachel Lindsay, Ernest Hemingway, and Eugene Field are some of the better known names. Many others, important but less well known, were a part of the Midwest literary group which earned Chicago the title of "literary capital of the United States."

Robert Ingersoll, famous agnostic writer and orator, first taught school in 1852 in Massac county, and later practiced law in Shawneetown. Clarence Darrow, the great humanist lawyer, rose to fame in Chicago.

Jane Addams, born in Cedarville, left as her monument the famous Hull House of Chicago. This famous settlement house has itself produced its quota of prominent figures, including Sidney Hillman the labor leader and Benny Goodman, exponent of modern music. Louis Armstrong, another figure in modern music, came from Chicago's south side.

Frank Lloyd Wright began his career in a Chicago architect's office, and the state contains many examples of his functionalist style. One of the country's great sculptors, Lorado Taft, worked in Chicago and taught for years at the Art Institute.

Illinois contributed one of the country's outstanding newspaper publishers in Joseph Medill who founded the *Chicago Tribune*, now the stronghold of Midwest isolationism and published by his grandson, Col. Robert R. McCormick. Another outstanding publisher, and war-time Secretary of the Navy, was Col. Frank Knox of the *Chicago Daily News*. Another prominent figure of journalism was the co-founder of the *Daily News*, Melville Stone, later identified with the Associated Press.

One of the country's most brilliant educators became identified with

Robert
Illinois when John Maynard Hutchins launched his progressive program at the University of Chicago.

And finally, at Troy Grove, in La Salle county, you may see the birthplace of James Butler Hickock and a monument inscribed with his better known name, "Wild Bill" Hickock.

WHAT TO SEE IN ILLINOIS

Visitors to Illinois (or residents) will find plenty of scenery and facilities for enjoying it. The state park system consists of 13 parks ranging in size from 43 to 4,500 acres.

Largest of the parks is Starved Rock park, between La Salle and Ottawa on the Illinois river. It is the oldest of the parks and contains more than 50 points of interest. The rock formation from which it takes its name rises 140 feet above the river. On its summit La Salle and Tonti established one of their chain of French forts, and in 1769, according to legend, the remanant of a band of Illinois Indians took refuge there in a vain attempt to escape from the British. Caves, canyons, salt and sulphur wells are among the natural attractions; park facilities include lodges, swimming, boating, fishing and other recreations.

White Pines Forest, near Mt. Morris, contains 315 acres of white pines, the southernmost stand of this tree in the Midwest, and the only forest of its kind in Illinois.

Chain-O'-Lakes park attracts many cottagers during the summer and fall to the lake country north and west of Chicago. A unique feature that brings thousands to the park in early August is the blooming of the lake's Egyptian Lotus beds.

Other state parks are: Buffalo Rock, Illini and Matthiessen (formerly Deer Park), all in LaSalle county with Starved Rock; Pere Marquette and Spitler Woods in Jersey county near Alton; Apple River Canyon in Jo Daviess county; Fox Ridge in Coles county; and Mississippi Palisades near Savanna in Carroll county where some of the state's most impressive scenery is found.

Besides the state parks there are nine historical parks: Black Hawk in Rock Island, Cahokia Mounds near St. Louis, Cave-in-Rock in Hardin county; Fort Massac in Massac county; Jubilee College near Peoria; the Lincoln Log Cabin park near Charleston, New Salem near Petersburg in Menard county, and Fort Chartres and Fort Kaskaskia in Randolph county.

Space is too limited here to attempt a guidebook of Illinois, but the following are listed as of especial interest because of their uniqueness:

The Baha'i House of Worship in Wilmette, Chicago suburb, is one of the most unusual architectural creations in the country. The temple is the only one in North America representing the faith founded in the 1860's by Baha'u'llah, a Persian religious leader. His son, Abdu'l-Baha, laid the cornerstone in 1930.

On the Rock river near Rockford is a 48-foot statue of an Indian, rising from the trees of the bluff overlooking the river. This is the Black Hawk Monument, executed by Larado Taft and presented by him to the state in 1911. The foundation extends 30 feet down into the bluff to secure it against the forces of the elements. The great white figure rising from its wild setting presents an unusual appearance.

Probably one of the most extensive collections of weapons, antique and modern, is housed in the museum of the government owned Rock Island Arsenal on a river island near the city.

Springfield, the state capital, is the Mecca of Lincoln's admirers. Besides the Lincoln tomb which contains the bodies of Lincoln, his wife and three children, there are many collections of Lincolniana and

the Illinois State Historical Library houses the most comprehensive collection of material on Illinois history in existence.

The Piasa Bird on the bluffs at Alton is a sight the traveler will not see elsewhere. It was described by Father Marquette on the white man's first trip into Illinois country as "high rocks with hideous monsters painted on them, and upon which the bravest Indians dare not look." The original painting of the strange monster was destroyed by quarrying operations in 1870 and has been restored with funds raised by subscription.

This brief description is hardly justice to a state of more than 56,000 square miles with the Great Lakes on one side and the Mississippi on another, and the story of the country's second largest city is a book of its own.

Praise of the state has been by no means unanimous. Many have found little but injustice and disappointment within its borders. Charles Dickens writing of Illinois in his American Notes could find little complimentary to say, and some may agree with the sentiments of Thomas Campbell, former Secretary of State of Illinois. A gentleman of clerical appearance applied to Campbell for the use of the state assembly chamber, saying he wished to deliver a course of lectures on the second coming of the Lord.

"Take my advice and don't waste your time in this city," Campbell said. "It is my private opinion that if the Lord has been in Springfield once, he will not come the second time."

There is something about the state, however, that attracts people. For in 1940 there were 7,897,241 residing there. Few parts of the earth have changed so in the last 200 years.

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